

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 7-9 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-6 are pending in this application.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-6 stand allowed.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 stands objected to. As part of this response, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice.

Double Patenting

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. As part of this response, claims 7-9 have been canceled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,317 to Wilkinson et al. In order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims in the present application, claims 7-9 have been canceled without prejudice. The cancellation of claims 7-9 is not intended to be, and is not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 7-9.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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